

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method for inhibiting phototoxicity of ~~[[the]]~~ a photosensitizing agent in non-targeted tissue during photodynamic therapy using ~~[[a]]~~ the photosensitizing agent or a pre-photosensitizing agent, the method comprising the steps of : administering an agent to a targeted treatment site, the agent being effective to accumulate in tissue at the targeted treatment site as a photosensitizing agent; and irradiating the targeted treatment site to activate the photosensitizing agent to cause phototoxicity in tissue at the targeted treatment site while inhibiting phototoxicity of the photosensitizing agent in non-targeted tissue surrounding the targeted treatment site, wherein the step comprises reducing the oxygen-content in the non-targeted tissue during the step of irradiating the treatment site.
2. (Canceled).
3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of reducing the oxygen-content in the non-targeted tissue comprises applying an external vacuum to the non-targeted tissue.
4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of reducing the oxygen-content in the non-targeted tissue comprises the step of flushing the non-targeted tissue with nitrogen gas.
5. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein the non-targeted tissue is flushed with nitrogen gas by positioning a housing having a chamber formed therein on the non-targeted tissue such that the non-targeted tissue is in communication with the chamber, and filling the chamber with nitrogen gas.
6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of reducing the oxygen-content in the non-targeted tissue comprises the step of decreasing local circulation and delivery of oxygenated blood to the non-targeted tissue.
7. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein local circulation and delivery of

oxygenated blood is decreased by positioning a housing having a chamber formed therein on the non-targeted tissue such that the tissue is in communication with the chamber, and creating a vacuum within the chamber.

8. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein the housing includes a porous, tissue-contacting surface such that the tissue deforms around the tissue-contacting surface when a vacuum is created within the chamber.

9. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the non-targeted tissue comprises epithelial tissue.

10. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the non-targeted tissue comprises epidermal tissue.

11. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the agent comprises a photosensitizing agent.

12. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the agent comprises a pre-photosensitizing agent.

13. (Original) The method of claim 12, where the pre-photosensitizing agent is selected from the group consisting of aminolevulinic acid and esters of aminolevulinic acid.

14. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the agent is selected from the group consisting of porphyrins, chlorines, porphycenes, purpurins, phthalocyanines, naphthalocyanines, bacteriochlorins, benzophenothiazines, and combinations thereof.

15-22. (Canceled).